

TBIAC and OABI Highlights and Accomplishments

The Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council (TBIAC) is composed of volunteer appointees who donate their time to Council activities, and work with the Office of Acquired Brain Injury as the lead agency of Texas to provide guidance, consultation, referral, and service coordination for individuals with acquired brain injuries and their families, including combat veterans. The TBIAC its efforts have been funded by primarily with federal grants. The OABI estimated general revenue budget for 2014 was \$278,008; budgeted and requested funds annually for 2015 – 2017 is \$317.767.

The mission of the TBIAC is to:

- Educate and inform state leadership of the needs of people with brain injuries and their families.
- Recommend policies and practices to meet those needs.
- Encourage research into the cause, prevention and treatment of traumatic brain injury and care of people with a traumatic brain injury.
- Promote brain injury prevention and awareness throughout the state.
- Identify people with traumatic brain injuries, their family members and caregivers, and to improve their access to supports and services.

Continuing Education: Web-Based Training Courses

- “Making a Difference: Meeting the Needs of Individuals with Brain Injury,” and “Brain Injury – The Silent Epidemic “
- “Re-Entry of Students with TBI to the School Setting”
 - The 2008 Needs and Resource Assessment Report was developed through the TBIAC Resource Committee in collaboration with the Texas Education Agency (TEA), Region 12 Education Services Centers and a statewide stakeholder group of education professionals including representatives of Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) to assess the transition of students with brain injuries ability to transition back into their community schools. An accredited course available on the OABI, TEA and TJJD websites.

Texas Juvenile Justice Screening Project

- The US Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) Federal TBI Program, awarded a grant specifically to the OABI in 2009 to partner with the TJJD) for the purpose of:
 - Screening to identify the presence of TBI among the 106,000 youth in the juvenile justice system to determine the presence of brain injury, and if a brain injury may have contributed their misbehavior/criminality
 - Offering referral for treatment and services to reduce recidivism, improve functioning for adolescents served, and improve access to community supports
- Wayne Gordon, Ph.D., ABPP/Cn, director of the Mount Sinai Brain Injury Research Center is Principal Investigator. The Brain Injury Screening Questionnaire (BISQ), developed by Dr. Gordon was used as the screening instrument to identify potential brain injury.
- More than 300 professionals who work in juvenile justice, have been trained about TBI and how to use the BISQ.
- Approximately 80% have demonstrated utilization of the therapy and have reduced recidivism rates.
- The grant ends in 2014.

TBI Registry

- The Texas TBI registry was established in 1997 by the 75th Legislature. This statute contains the first statutory reference to the Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council.

Brain Injury Manual for Disaster and Emergency Response Management

- Manuals are available on the OABI website and provided to all 23 statewide Regional Advisory Councils (components of the state’s emergency response system).
- This training has been presented at three annual Texas Department of Emergency Management conferences, at the HHSC Disaster and Emergency Council, and the HHSC Business Continuity Council.

Texas Brain Injury Resources and Services Directory

- The OABI in collaboration with TBIAC members, developed a state directory of public and private brain injury resources and services available to assist in the provision of consumer and constituent service coordination and referral for individuals, family members and others.

- The OABI, with assistance from TBIAC members, has responded to an estimated 1500 requests from state and national elected officials for information, referrals and service coordination for constituents.

Veteran Tactical Response – A Law Enforcement Guide to Working with Veterans with TBI, PTSD, and Homelessness

- To help police officers recognize, and respond to Veterans with TBI and PTSD, prevent arrests, suicide, homelessness. More than 450 law enforcement officers have received Veteran Tactical Response training, including all special agents in the Firearms Division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.
- The training Program development was funded by HRSA, Federal TBI Program grant.

Wallet Identification Cards

- Identification cards were developed to distribute to individuals with brain injury, including veterans, in hopes of . These cards include the individual's name, and emergency contact information; signs and symptoms of a TBI; and a message stating communication may be difficult especially during stressful situations

Legislation

The TBIAC receives statewide input from the public and private sectors to ensure an ongoing process of assessing the needs of people with brain injuries and their families. The Council informs, educates and makes recommendations to the legislature on various legislative initiatives. The Council has written position papers and provided public testimony in support of brain injury prevention and access to services.

Position Papers:

- **Motorcycle Helmets**
- **Sobriety Checkpoints**
- **EMS Trauma Registry**
- **OABI**
- **HB 1676, and HB 1919**
- **Adequacy of HHS Delivery**
- **LTC Waivers**

Brain Injury Insurance Coverage

Texas, the only state to address the issue of insurance company's regularly denying coverage for the spectrum of brain injury rehabilitation services needed after a brain injury, including cognitive rehabilitation and post acute brain injury rehabilitation. The Council lead efforts to address these issues. Texas Insurance Code Chapter 1352 was established in 2001 by the 77th Legislature (HB 1676), effective September 1, 2002. Rules to implement the statute (28 Texas Administrative Code §§ 21.3101-21.3107) were adopted August 26, 2002. This legislation was amended in 2007 the 80th Legislature (HB1919), effective September 1, 2007; and in 2013 by the 83rd Legislature (H B 2929) in response to insurance company's continuing denial of services outlined in the original and amended legislation.

The 2006 Texas Sunset report concluded claims cost for the 2001 mandate are considered minimal at 1/5th of 1% of total claim cost and, estimated premium cost only an additional \$1.37 per policy issued for an individual policy plan and \$4.94 per policy issued for employee only for employer sponsored plans. Many other states are attempting to develop similar legislation as Texas, in response to the same issues Texas faced prior to 2002.

Support for Nastasha's Law on Student Athlete Concussions

Support for the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DRS) Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services (CRS)

- As it now exists, CRS began in 1991 with \$1 million serving consumers with TBI and SCI
- Currently, funding is based on surcharges on convictions of all misdemeanors and felonies
- Current funding is more than \$24 million and served 1846 TBI consumers in 2013 and 2014 (908 in 2013 and, 938 in 2014)
- 75% of consumers were referred from hospitals and other institutions
- It is estimated that 80% of CRS consumers go on to live in their own homes or family home

Support of Adding Cognitive Therapy to Medicaid Waivers for Individuals with Acquired Brain Injury (HHSC: Exceptional Item 25)

In 2009, the 81st Legislative Session, directed the OABI by Rider 66 to conduct a feasibility study regarding the need for a system of community support and residential services for individuals with acquired brain injury that included cognitive rehabilitation. A multi-agency work group including TBIAC members and subject-matter experts worked to provide research, recommendations and options for ABI pilot Medicaid waivers.

As a result of the nine-month study, the "Feasibility Study for Providing Community Support and Residential Services for Individuals with Acquired Brain Injury", HHSC requested and received exceptional item funding for a pilot community support waiver to be included in the 2012-13 Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR). Cognitive rehabilitation therapy (CRT) was added to existing waiver programs. These services allow individuals with brain injury to remain in the community with increased independence.

Council Member Presentations –Brain injury education, advocacy and prevention, across the state and nationally. Such as Texas Correction Agency Transportation Safety Council, Brain Injury Association of America Business and Professional Council, Michigan Brain Injury Providers, Texas Corrections Association, and others.

2014 Report to the Governor – 52 page report completed and in the final process of HHSC approval

Support of the Office of Acquired Brain Injury

- The 82nd Legislature in 2011 removed the OABI from general revenue, due to a shortfall of \$27 billion.
- The federal grant was able to sustain the office until the 83rd Legislature in 2013 restored the OABI to the general revenue.
- The Council continues to support budgetary appropriation of the OABI.

Additional OABI Accomplishments

- Presentations made by OABI staff at 62 state, national and international conferences.
- Participation of OABI staff on advisory councils/boards including:
 - Defense Centers of Excellence in Psychological Health and TBI and the National Intrepid Center of Excellence
 - Texas Coordinating Council for Veterans Services and the Substance Abuse
 - Mental Health Services Administration/Texas Policy Council for Service Members, Veterans and Families.
- Recognition of the OABI by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration in 2009, as a national model for its robust, innovative programs and its unprecedented development of a multi-systemic national and statewide network of partners providing service referral coordination, education and outreach, connecting civilians as well as veterans to an appropriate array of care.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration recognized the OABI with the 2013 Leadership Award for its achievements and contributions.
- The OABI serves on the Texas Coordinating Council for Veteran Services, which was established by the 82nd Legislature in 2011 to coordinate the activities of state agencies that assist veterans, service members, and their families; coordinate outreach efforts that ensure that veterans, service members, and their families are made aware of services; and facilitate collaborative relationships among state, federal, and local agencies and private organizations to identify issues affecting this target population.
- The OABI and the Texas Athletics Association began the Texas Sports Concussion Partnership, in 2011. The Texas Institute for Brain Injury and Repair at UT Southwestern Medical School under the direction of Dr. Hunt Batjer, became the third partner in the partnership in 2012. The partnership focus is education about concussion and return to play, and prevention of future TBI's.